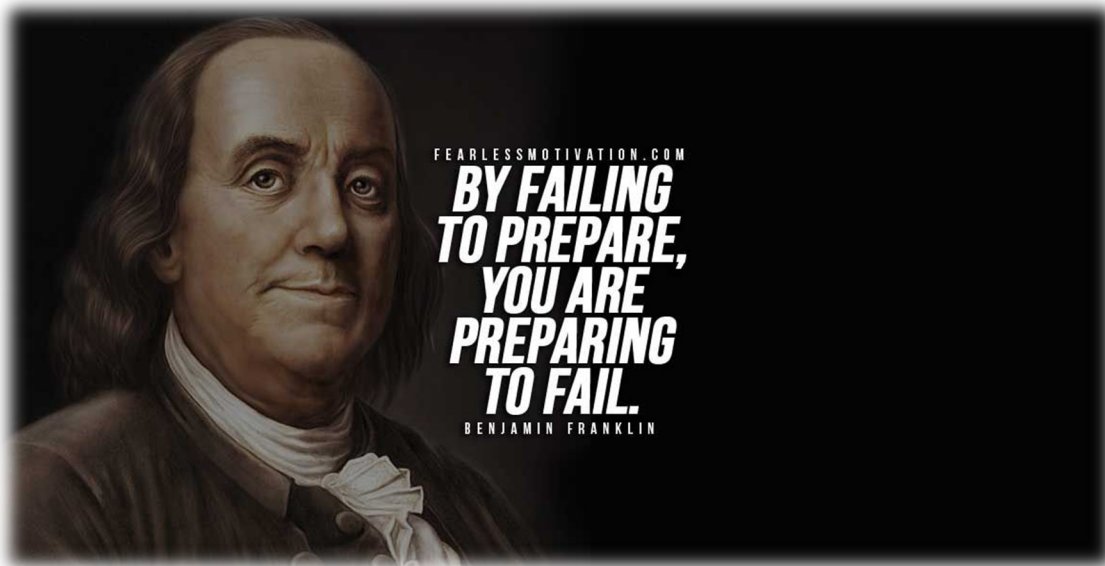


108  
Greatest Of All Times



Globally selected  
Personalities



17 Jan 1706 <::><::><::> 17 Apl 1790

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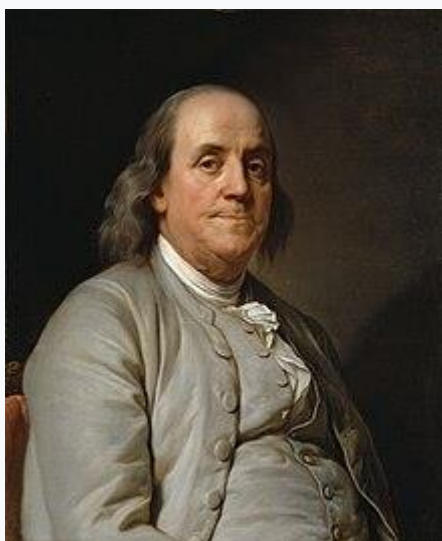
17 Jan 1706



17 Apr 1790

Benjamin Franklin

[FRS](#) [FRSA](#) [FRSE](#)



Portrait by [Joseph Duplessis](#), 1778

6th [President of Pennsylvania](#)

**In office**

October 18, 1785 – November 5, 1788

**Vice  
President**

- [Charles Biddle](#)
- [Peter Muhlenberg](#)
- [David Redick](#)

**Preceded by** [John Dickinson](#)

**Succeeded  
by** [Thomas Mifflin](#)

[United States Minister to Sweden](#)

**In office**

September 28, 1782 – April 3, 1783

**Appointed by** [Congress of the Confederation](#)

**Preceded by** *Position established*

**Succeeded  
by** [Jonathan Russell](#)

[United States Minister to France](#)

**In office**

March 23, 1779 – May 17, 1785

**Appointed by** [Continental Congress](#)

**Preceded by** *Position established*

**Succeeded by** [Thomas Jefferson](#)

1st [United States Postmaster General](#)

**In office**

July 26, 1775 – November 7, 1776

**Preceded by** *Position established*

**Succeeded by** [Richard Bache](#)

Delegate from [Pennsylvania](#) to the [Second Continental Congress](#)

**In office**

May 1775 – October 1776

[Postmaster General of British America](#)

**In office**

August 10, 1753 – January 31, 1774

**Preceded by** *Position established*

**Succeeded by** *vacant*

[Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly](#)

**In office**

May 1764 – October 1764

**Preceded by** [Isaac Norris](#)

**Succeeded by** Isaac Norris

1st [President of the University of Pennsylvania](#)

**In office**

1749–1754

**Succeeded by** [William Smith](#)

**Personal details**

**Born** January 17, 1706 [[O.S.](#) January 6, 1705]<sup>[[Note 1](#)]</sup>  
[Boston](#), [Massachusetts Bay](#), English America

**Died** April 17, 1790 (aged 84)  
[Philadelphia](#), Pennsylvania, U.S.

**Resting place** [Christ Church Burial Ground](#), Philadelphia


**Political party** [Independent](#)

**Spouse** [Deborah Read](#)

(m. 1730; died 1774)

**Children**

- [William](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Francis</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sarah</a></li> </ul>
<b>Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Josiah Franklin</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Abiah Folger</a></li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<a href="#">Boston Latin School</a>
<b>Signature</b>	

<https://www.ushistory.org/franklin/info/index.htm>

**B**enjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706. He was the tenth son of soap maker, Josiah Franklin. Benjamin's mother was Abiah Folger, the second wife of Josiah. In all, Josiah would father 17 children.

Josiah intended for Benjamin to enter into the clergy. However, Josiah could only afford to send his son to school for one year and clergymen needed years of schooling. But, as young Benjamin loved to read, he had him apprenticed to his brother James, who was a printer. After helping James compose pamphlets and set type which was grueling work, 12-year-old Benjamin would sell their products in the streets.

### **Apprentice Printer**

When Benjamin was 15 his brother started [The New England Courant](#) the first "newspaper" in Boston. Though there were two papers in the city before James's *Courant*, they only reprinted news from abroad. James's paper carried articles, opinion pieces written by James's friends, advertisements, and news of ship schedules.

Benjamin wanted to write for the paper too, but he knew that James would never let him. After all, Benjamin was just a lowly apprentice. So Ben began writing letters at night and signing them with the name of a fictional widow, Silence Dogood. Dogood was filled with advice and very critical of the world around her, particularly concerning the issue of how women were treated. Ben would sneak the letters under the print shop door at night so no one knew who was writing the pieces. They were a smash hit, and everyone wanted to know who was the real "Silence Dogood."

After 14 letters, Ben confessed that he had been writing the letters all along. While James's friends thought Ben was quite precocious and funny, James scolded his brother and was very jealous of the attention paid to him.

Before long the Franklins found themselves at odds with Boston's powerful Puritan preachers, the Mathers. Smallpox was a deadly disease in those times, and the Mathers supported inoculation; the Franklins' believed inoculation only made people sicker. And while most Bostonians agreed with the Franklins, they did not like the way James made fun of the clergy, during the debate. Ultimately, James was thrown in jail for his views, and Benjamin was left to run the paper for several issues.

Upon release from jail, James was not grateful to Ben for keeping the paper going. Instead he kept harassing his younger brother and administering beatings from time to time. Ben could not take it and decided to run away in 1723.

### Escape to Philadelphia



Running away was illegal. In early America, people all had to have a place in society and runaways did not fit in anywhere. Regardless Ben took a boat to New York where he hoped to find work as a printer. He didn't, and walked across New Jersey, finally arriving in Philadelphia via a boat ride. After debarking, he used the last of his money to buy some rolls. He was wet, disheveled, and messy when his future wife, Deborah Read, saw him on that day, October, 6, 1723. She thought him odd-looking, never dreaming that seven years later they would be married.

Franklin found work as an apprentice printer. He did so well that the governor of Pennsylvania promised to set him up in business for himself if young Franklin would just go to London to buy fonts and printing equipment. Franklin did go to London, but the governor reneged on his promise and Benjamin was forced to spend several months in England doing print work.

Benjamin had been living with the Read family before he left for London. Deborah Read, the very same girl who had seen young Benjamin arrive in Philadelphia, started talking marriage, with the young printer. But Ben did not think he was ready. While he was gone, she married another man.

Upon returning to Philadelphia, Franklin tried his hand at helping to run a shop, but soon went back to being a printer's helper. Franklin was a better printer than the man he was working for, so he borrowed some money and set himself up in the printing business. Franklin seemed to work all the time, and the citizens of Philadelphia began to notice the diligent young businessman. Soon he began getting the contract to do government jobs and started thriving in business.

In 1728, Benjamin fathered a child named William. The mother of William is not known. However, in 1730 Benjamin married his childhood sweetheart, Deborah Read. Deborah's husband had run off, and now she was able to marry.

In addition to running a print shop, the Franklins also ran their own store at this time, with Deborah selling everything from soap to fabric. Ben also ran a book store. They were quite enterprising.

### The Pennsylvania Gazette



In 1729, Benjamin Franklin bought a newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. Franklin not only printed the paper, but often contributed pieces to the paper under aliases. His newspaper soon became the most successful in the colonies. This



newspaper, among other firsts, would print the first political cartoon, authored by Ben himself.

During the 1720s and 1730s, the side of Franklin devoted to public good started to show itself. He organized the Junto, a young working-man's group dedicated to self- and-civic improvement. He joined the Masons. He was a very busy man socially.

### Poor Richard's Almanack



But Franklin thrived on work. In 1733 he started publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Almanacs of the era were printed annually, and contained things like weather reports, recipes, predictions and homilies. Franklin published his almanac under the guise of a man named Richard Saunders, a poor man who needed money to take care of his carping wife. What distinguished Franklin's almanac were his witty aphorisms and lively writing. Many of the famous phrases associated with Franklin, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned" come from *Poor Richard*.

### Fire Prevention



Franklin continued his civic contributions during the 1730s and 1740s. He helped launch projects to pave, clean and light Philadelphia's streets. He started agitating for environmental clean up. Among the chief accomplishments of Franklin in this era was helping to launch the Library Company in 1731. During this time books were scarce and expensive. Franklin recognized that by pooling together resources, members could afford to buy books from England. Thus was born the nation's first subscription library. In 1743, he helped to launch the American Philosophical Society, the first learned society in America. Recognizing that the city needed better help in treating the sick, Franklin brought together a group who formed the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1751. The Library Company, Philosophical Society, and Pennsylvania Hospital are all in existence today.



Fires were very dangerous threat to Philadelphians, so Franklin set about trying to remedy the situation. In 1736, he organized Philadelphia's Union Fire Company, the first in the city. His famous saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," was actually fire-fighting advice.

Those who suffered fire damage to their homes often suffered irreversible economic loss. So, in 1752, Franklin helped to found the Philadelphia Contribution for Insurance Against Loss by Fire. Those with insurance policies were not wiped out financially. The Contributionship is still in business today.

### Electricity

Franklin's printing business was thriving in this 1730s and 1740s. He also started setting up franchise printing partnerships in other cities. By 1749 he retired from business and started concentrating on science, experiments, and inventions. This was nothing new to Franklin. In 1743, he had already invented a heat-efficient stove — called the Franklin stove — to help warm houses efficiently. As the stove was invented to help improve society, he refused to take out a patent.



Among Franklin's other inventions are swim fins, the [glass armonica](#) (a musical instrument) and [bifocals](#).

In the early 1750's he turned to the study of electricity. His observations, including his kite experiment which verified the nature of electricity and lightning brought Franklin international fame.

## The Political Scene

Politics became more of an active interest for Franklin in the 1750s. In 1757, he went to England to represent Pennsylvania in its fight with the descendants of the Penn family over who should represent the Colony. He remained in England to 1775, as a Colonial representative not only of Pennsylvania, but of Georgia, New Jersey and Massachusetts as well.

Early in his time abroad, Franklin considered himself a loyal Englishman. England had many of the amenities that America lacked. The country also had fine thinkers, theater, witty conversation — things in short supply in America. He kept asking Deborah to come visit him in England. He had thoughts of staying there permanently, but she was afraid of traveling by ship.



In 1765, Franklin was caught by surprise by America's overwhelming opposition to the [Stamp Act](#). His testimony before Parliament helped persuade the members to repeal the law. He started wondering if America should break free of England. Franklin, though he had many friends in England, was growing sick of the corruption he saw all around him in politics and royal circles. Franklin, who had proposed a plan for united colonies in 1754, now would earnestly start working toward that goal.

Franklin's big break with England occurred in the "Hutchinson Affair." Thomas Hutchinson was an English-appointed governor of Massachusetts. Although he pretended to take the side of the people of Massachusetts in their complaints against England, he was actually still working for the King. Franklin got a hold of some letters in which Hutchinson called for "an abridgment of what are called English Liberties" in America. He sent the letters to America where much of the population was outraged. After leaking the letters Franklin was called to Whitehall, the English Foreign Ministry, where he was condemned in public.

## A New Nation



Franklin came home.

He started working actively for Independence. He naturally thought his son William, now the Royal governor of New Jersey, would agree with his views. William did not. William remained a Loyal Englishman. This caused a rift between father and son which was never healed.

Franklin was elected to the Second Continental Congress and worked on a committee of five that helped to draft the [Declaration of Independence](#). Though much of the writing is Thomas Jefferson's, much of the

contribution is Franklin's. In 1776 Franklin signed the Declaration, and afterward sailed to France as an ambassador to the Court of Louis XVI.

The French loved Franklin. He was the man who had tamed lightning, the humble American who dressed like a backwoodsman but was a match for any wit in the world. He spoke French, though stutteringly. He was a favorite of the ladies. Several years earlier his wife Deborah had died, and Benjamin was now a notorious flirt.



In part via Franklin's popularity, the government of France signed a Treaty of Alliance with the Americans in 1778. Franklin also helped secure loans and persuade the French they were doing the right thing. Franklin was on hand to sign the Treaty of Paris in 1783, after the Americans had won the Revolution.

Now a man in his late seventies, Franklin returned to America. He became President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and signed the Constitution. One of his last public acts was writing an anti-slavery treatise in 1789.

Franklin died on April 17, 1790 at the age of 84. 20,000 people attended the funeral of the man who was called, "the harmonious human multitude."

His electric personality, however, still lights the world.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Benjamin Franklin

## Inventions

<https://fi.edu/en/science-and-education/benjamin-franklin/inventions>

Benjamin Franklin was many things in his lifetime: a printer, a postmaster, an ambassador, an author, a scientist, and a Founding Father. Above all, he was an inventor, creating solutions to common problems, innovating new technology, and even making life a little more musical.

Despite creating some of the most successful and popular inventions of the modern world, Franklin never patented a single one, believing that they should be shared freely:

*"That as we enjoy great Advantages from the Inventions of others, we should be glad of an Opportunity to serve others by any Invention of ours; and this we should do freely and generously."*



Here are some of Benjamin Franklin's most significant inventions:

### Lightning Rod



Franklin is known for his experiments with electricity - most notably the **kite experiment** - a fascination that began in earnest after he accidentally shocked himself in 1746. By 1749, he had turned his attention to the possibility of protecting buildings—and the people inside—from lightning strikes. Having noticed that a sharp iron needle conducted electricity away from a charged metal sphere, he theorized that such a design could be useful:

*"May not the knowledge of this power of points be of use to mankind, in preserving houses, churches, ships, etc., from the stroke of lightning, by directing us to fix, on the highest parts of those edifices, upright rods of iron made sharp as a needle...Would not these pointed rods probably draw the electrical fire silently out of a cloud before it came nigh enough to strike, and thereby secure us from that most sudden and terrible mischief!"*

Franklin's pointed lightning rod design proved effective and soon topped buildings throughout the Colonies.

### Bifocals



Like most of us, Franklin found that his eyesight was getting worse as he got older, and he grew both near-sighted and far-sighted. Tired of switching between two pairs of eyeglasses, he invented "double spectacles," or what we now call bifocals. He had the lenses from his two pairs of glasses - one for reading and one for distance - sliced in half horizontally and then remade into a single pair, with the lens for distance at the top and the one for reading at the bottom.

### Swim Fins



An avid swimmer, Franklin was just 11 years old when he invented swimming fins—two oval pieces of wood that, when grasped in the hands, provided extra thrust through the water. He also tried out fins for his feet, but they weren't as effective. He wrote about his childhood invention in an essay titled "On the Art of Swimming":

*"When I was a boy, I made two oval [palettes] each about 10 inches long and six broad, with a hole for the thumb in order to retain it fast in the palm of my hand. They much resembled a painter's [palettes]. In swimming, I pushed the edges of these forward and I struck the water with their flat surfaces as I drew them back. I remember I swam faster by means of these [palettes], but they fatigued my wrists."*

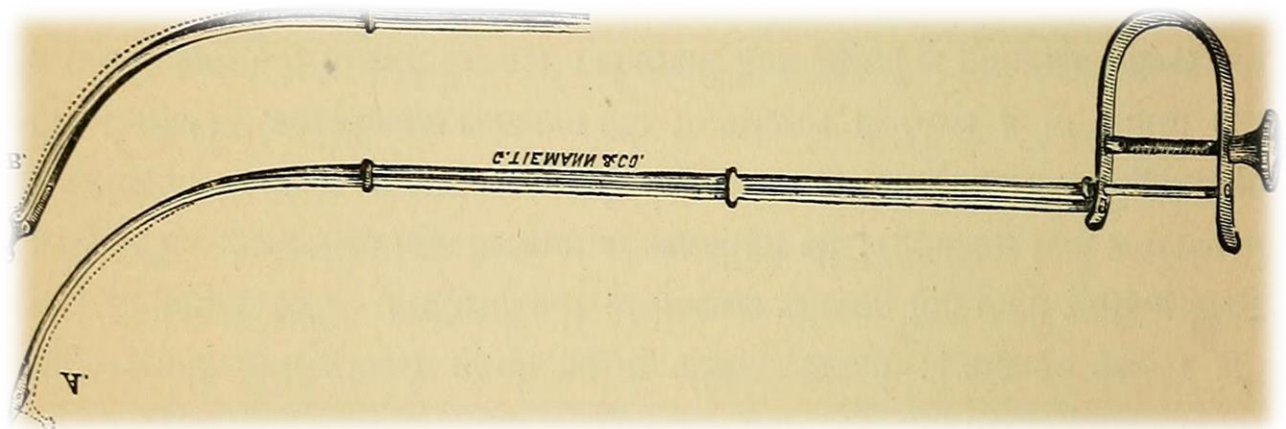
## Franklin Stove



The Franklin Stove.

In 1742, Franklin—perhaps fed up with the cold Pennsylvania winters—invented a better way to heat rooms. The Franklin stove, as it came to be called, was a metal-lined fireplace designed to stand a few inches away from the chimney. A hollow baffle at the rear let the heat from the fire mix with the air more quickly, and an inverted siphon helped to extract more heat. His invention also produced less smoke than a traditional fireplace, making it that much more desirable.

## Urinary Catheter



Franklin was inspired to invent a better catheter in 1752 when he saw what his kidney (or bladder) stone-stricken brother had to go through. Catheters at the time were simply rigid metal tubes—none too pleasant. So, Franklin devised a better solution: a flexible

catheter made of hinged segments of tubes. He had a silversmith make his design and he promptly mailed it off to his brother with instructions and best wishes.

### Armonica



*"Of all my inventions, the glass armonica has given me the greatest personal satisfaction."*

So wrote Franklin about the musical instrument he designed in 1761. Inspired by English musicians who created sounds by passing their fingers around the brims of glasses filled with water, Franklin worked with a glassblower to re-create the music ("incomparably sweet beyond those of any other") in a less cumbersome way.

The armonica (the name is derived from the Italian for "harmony") was immediately popular, but by the 1820s it had been nearly forgotten.







Franklin's Birthplace, Milk Street.

An 1881 illustration of Franklin's birthplace on Milk Street in Boston



A May 2008 photograph of Franklin's birthplace in Boston, commemorated with a **bust** of Franklin atop the building's second-floor façade



Franklin (center) at work on a printing press in a painting published by the Detroit Publishing Company in c. 1914.





Deborah Read Franklin, Franklin's common-law wife, c. 1759



Sarah Franklin Bache (1743-1808), the daughter of Franklin and Deborah Read



William Franklin (1730-1813), Franklin's son, whose mother was unknown, was born out of wedlock on February 22, 1730

In 1730, 24-year-old Franklin publicly acknowledged his illegitimate son William and raised him in his household.

William was born on February 22, 1730,  
but his mother's identity is unknown



In 1751, Franklin co-founded Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, one of the first hospitals in the United States, depicted in this 1755 engraving by William Strickland.



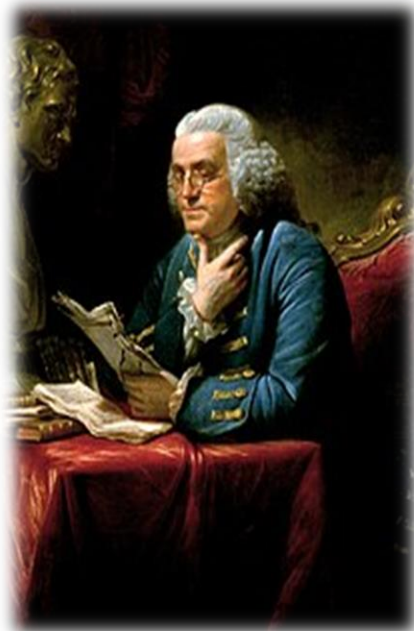
The first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847 in honor of Franklin

*Phila. Sept. 4. 1776*  
 Permit the Bearer, William Goddard Esq  
 Surveyor of the General Post-Office established  
 by Congress, to pass between this Place & Boston  
 on the Business of that said Office in which he  
 is now employed.  
*B. Franklin, Postm. General  
 & President of the Pennsylvania  
 Convention*  
*To all whom it may*

A Pass, signed by Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin, gave William Goddard the authority to travel as needed to investigate and inspect postal routes and protect the mail.



Pennsylvania colonial currency printed by Franklin and David Hall in 1764



Franklin in London in 1767, wearing a blue suit with elaborate gold braid and buttons, a far cry from the simple dress he affected at the French court in later years, depicted in a portrait by David Martin that is now on display in the White House.



John Trumbull's portrait of the Committee of Five presenting their draft of the Declaration to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia





*George Washington witnesses Gouverneur Morris sign the Constitution with Franklin seen behind Morris, in John Henry Hintermeister's 1925 portrait, Foundation of the American Government.*



*Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky, a c. 1816 portrait by Benjamin West now on display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.*



*Voltaire blessing Franklin's grandson, in the name of God and Liberty, an 1890 portrait by Pedro Américo*



A marble memorial statue of Franklin,  
the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial,  
in Philadelphia



A life-size bronze statue of Franklin (seated with cane)  
in the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.



Franklin has appeared on the United States \$100 bill since 1914.



## Examples of Franklin on U. S. Postage



Issue of 1861



Issue of 1895



Issue of 1918

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## Benjamin Franklin

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliography\\_of\\_Benjamin\\_Franklin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliography_of_Benjamin_Franklin)

[ONLY partial list is provided; for complete list,  
visit the cited Web Page]

This is a comprehensive list of primary and secondary works by or about Benjamin Franklin, one of the principal Founding Fathers of the United States. Works about Franklin have been consistently published during and after Franklin's life, spanning four centuries, and continue to appear in present-day publications. Scholarly works that are not necessarily subject-specific to Franklin, yet cover his life and efforts in significant measure, may also be included here. In contrast, this bibliography does not include the numerous encyclopaedia articles and short essays about Franklin.

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## Founding Fathers

# American Constitution

<https://testbook.com/articles/father-of-american-constitution>

**Who is the Father of American Constitution?** The American Constitution, ratified on September 17, 1787, is a testament to the foresight and wisdom of its architects. It not only established the framework for the U.S. federal government but also enshrined the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens. This transformative document has weathered the trials of time, guiding the United States through periods of war, civil unrest, and societal change.

The "**Father of American Constitution**", a title that resonates with reverence and respect, is bestowed upon James Madison. Born into a world of monarchies and empires, Madison, along with his contemporaries, dared to envisage a new form of governance - a republic built on the principles of democracy, liberty, and justice. This vision was encapsulated in the American Constitution, a document that has since served as a beacon for democratic societies worldwide.

- The Father of the American Constitution and the Founding Fathers of the United States are topics of immense importance for competitive exam aspirants.
- Understanding the contributions of these individuals to the formation of the United States provides insights into the principles of democracy, federalism, and constitutionalism.



- The creation of the Constitution was a collective effort that involved many other influential figures namely George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay who were the founding fathers of the United States apart from Madison, the father of the American Constitution.

Go through other Articles like this to prepare on various general awareness and other General Studies topics focusing on American history or Political Science and also for those that test General Knowledge and Current Affairs.

### Who is the Father of the American Constitution?

James Madison, born on March 16, 1751, in Virginia, is widely recognized as the **Father of the American Constitution**. Madison's intellectual prowess and political acumen played a pivotal role in the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. His tireless efforts in advocating for a strong central government and a system of checks and balances laid the foundation for the democratic principles that the United States upholds today. Madison's commitment to the principles of liberty, equality, and justice, coupled with his profound understanding of political theory and governance, made him an indispensable figure in the creation of the American Constitution. His legacy continues to shape American political thought and constitutional interpretation.

### Founding Fathers of the American Constitution

While James Madison is recognized as the Father of the American Constitution, the creation of the Constitution was a collective effort that involved many other influential figures, known as the **Founding Fathers of the United States**. These individuals, each with their unique perspectives and expertise, came together to debate, discuss, and eventually draft a constitution that would stand the test of time. Their collective wisdom and shared vision for a democratic republic have left an indelible mark on the history of the United States and the world.

Founding Father	Notable Contribution
George Washington	As the First President of the United States, Washington provided steadfast leadership during the American Revolutionary War. His presidency set many precedents that still hold today, including the two-term limit for presidents.
Thomas Jefferson	The principal author of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson's eloquent articulation of the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness continue to inspire. As the third President of the United States, his policies further shaped the young nation.
John Adams	A fervent advocate for American independence, Adams was a key figure in the Continental Congress. As the second President of the United States, his administration navigated the complexities of a nation still defining its identity.
Benjamin Franklin	A man of many talents, Franklin's contributions spanned the fields of science, writing, and politics. His diplomatic skills were instrumental in securing French support during the Revolutionary War, and his wisdom greatly influenced the drafting of the Constitution.

Alexander Hamilton	As the First Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton established the nation's financial system. His contributions to the Federalist Papers were crucial in garnering support for the ratification of the Constitution.
John Jay	Jay served as the first Chief Justice of the United States, shaping the nation's judiciary. His writings in the Federalist Papers provided a strong defence of the proposed Constitution.
James Madison	Known as the "Father of the Constitution", Madison's intellectual contributions to the Constitutional Convention were invaluable. As the fourth President of the United States, his leadership guided the nation through the War of 1812.

### Key Events of the American Constitution

The American Constitution was not born in a day. Starting from drafting to ratification and passing of amendment, the American Constitution came to be rigid due to its manifold events. Let's check out some of the key dates related to the Constitution of the United States, stemming from the country's "founders" or "framers."

- **May 25, 1787:** The Constitutional Convention begins in Philadelphia.
- **September 17, 1787:** The Constitution is signed by the delegates of the Constitutional Convention.
- **June 21, 1788:** The Constitution is ratified by the required nine states.
- **March 4, 1789:** The new U.S. government begins its operations under the Constitution.
- **December 15, 1791:** The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, is ratified.
- **January 6, 1787:** North Carolina selects five delegates for the Constitutional Convention.
- **July 26, 1787:** The Constitutional Convention adjourns after extensive debates and discussions.
- **August 6, 1787:** The Constitutional Convention reconvenes and the Committee of Detail presents its report, marking the acceptance of the first draft of the Constitution.
- **September 12, 1787:** The Committee of Style presents its report, which includes the final draft of the Constitution.
- **December 7, 1787:** Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the Constitution.
- **May 29, 1790:** Rhode Island, the last of the original 13 states, ratifies the Constitution.
- **February 2, 1790:** The Supreme Court of the United States convenes for the first time.
- **December 15, 1791:** The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, is ratified.

- **January 8, 1798:** The 11th Amendment, limiting the ability of individuals to sue states in federal court, is ratified.
- **April 30, 1803:** The Louisiana Purchase Treaty is signed, marking the first use of the treaty-making power of the U.S. government under the Constitution.
- **May 15, 1776:** The Second Continental Congress issues an address to the Colonies.
- **June 12, 1776:** The Virginia Bill of Rights is adopted.
- **June 29, 1776:** The Virginia Constitution is adopted.
- **September 28, 1787:** The U.S. Congress agrees to send the Constitution to the state legislatures for ratification.
- **November 1, 1786:** Troubles under the Articles of Confederation lead to calls for a stronger federal government.
- **May 14, 1787:** The Constitutional Convention begins in earnest.
- **May 29, 1787:** Edmund Randolph presents the Virginia Plan, proposing a strong central government.
- **June 15, 1787:** The New Jersey Plan is presented as an alternative to the Virginia Plan, sparking debates about representation in the new government.
- **July 5, 1787:** The Constitutional Convention debates the details of the proposed Constitution.

### Notable Contributions by the Father of American Constitution

James Madison's political career is marked by several significant works that have shaped American political thought. Madison's contributions to the American Constitution extend beyond his written works. His political philosophy and advocacy for a strong central government have had a lasting impact on American governance. Some of his notable contributions include:

- **Advocacy for a Strong Central Government:** Madison believed that a strong central government was necessary to maintain order and stability. His advocacy for a strong central government is evident in the Virginia Plan and his contributions to the Federalist Papers.
- **System of Checks and Balances:** Madison was a strong proponent of a system of checks and balances to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful. This principle is a cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution.
- **Drafting Bill of Rights:** Madison's drafting of the amendments that became the Bill of Rights eventually, ensuring the protection of individual liberties and set a precedent for the inclusion of similar protections in other democratic constitutions around the world.
- **Framer of The Federalist Papers:** Madison, along with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, wrote a series of essays under the pseudonym "Publius" that advocated for the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Madison's Federalist No. 10 and No. 51 are particularly renowned for their insightful analysis of the dangers of factionalism and advocacy for a system of checks and balances.
- **Promotion of Religious Freedom:** Madison was a staunch advocate for religious freedom, believing it to be a fundamental human right. His efforts led to the inclusion of the freedom of religion in the First Amendment.
- **Establishment of the Democratic-Republican Party:** Along with Thomas Jefferson, Madison helped establish the Democratic-Republican Party, one of the first major political parties in the United States.
- **Leadership During the War of 1812:** As President during the War of 1812, Madison's leadership was crucial in navigating the nation through this challenging period.

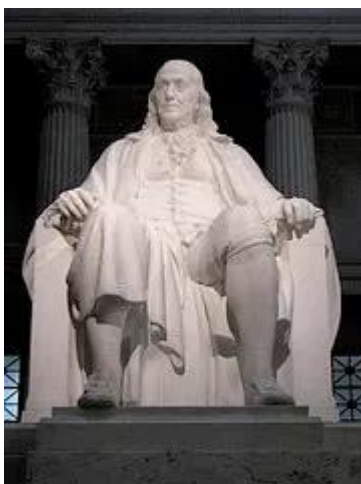


- **Advocacy for Public Education:** Madison believed in the importance of a well-informed electorate for the functioning of a democracy. He was a strong advocate for public education, viewing it as a means to equip citizens with the knowledge necessary for self-governance.
- **Expansion of Suffrage:** Madison supported the expansion of suffrage, or the right to vote. His belief in the principle of "one man, one vote" was instrumental in the gradual expansion of voting rights in the United States.
- **Slavery Abolition Advocate:** Although a slaveholder himself, Madison expressed concerns about the institution of slavery. He was a founding member of the American Colonisation Society, which sought to repatriate freed slaves to Africa.
- **Landmark Legislation:** Madison was instrumental in the passage of the Non-Intercourse Act of 1809, which sought to protect American interests during the Napoleonic Wars without resorting to armed conflict.
- **Constitutional Amendments:** Madison proposed a number of constitutional amendments during his time in Congress, many of which were designed to strengthen the power of the federal government.
- **Economic Development:** As President, Madison supported policies that fostered economic development, including the establishment of a second National Bank and protective tariffs to support American industry.
- **Foreign Policy:** Madison's presidency was marked by significant foreign policy challenges, including tensions with Britain and France. His leadership during these times helped shape the nation's approach to international relations.

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## Benjamin Franklin National Memorial

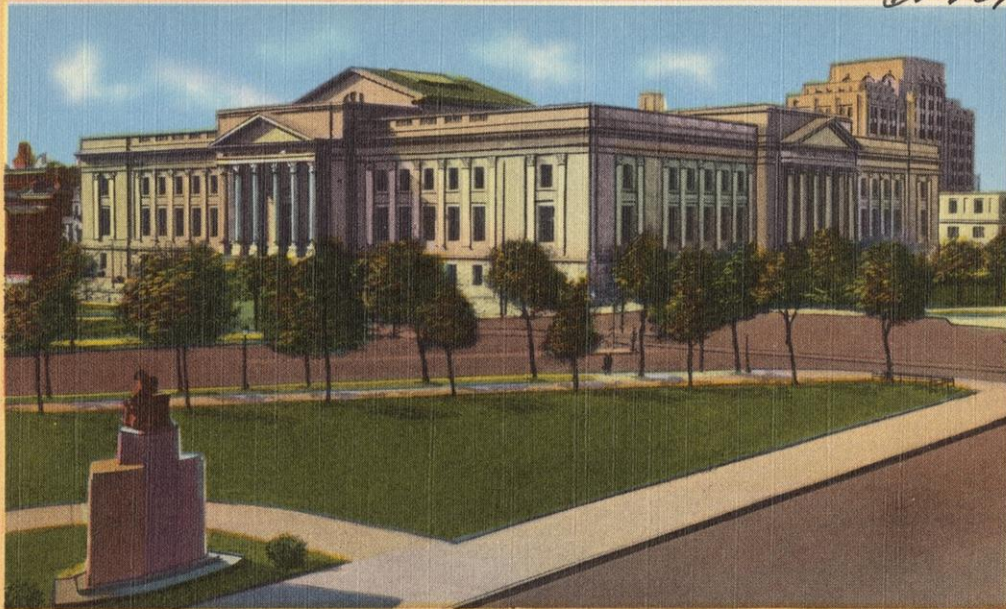
<https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/places-benjaminfranklinnationalmemorial.htm>



The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, a 20' statue of Ben Franklin, resides within the [Franklin Institute](#). Sculpted by James Earle Fraser from 1932 to 1938, the statue of our former statesman, writer, and inventor weighs an impressive 30 tons and is seated on a 92-ton pedestal of white Seravezza marble. Dedicated in 1938 and designated a national memorial in 1972, it serves as the focal point of the Memorial Hall, which was designed by John T. Windrim. The Hall itself is 82' in length, width, and height, with a 1600-ton domed ceiling, and marble walls, ceilings, and columns.

Interestingly enough, the Benjamin Franklin Memorial has not been placed on the National Register of Historic Places; it is actually affiliated with the National Park Service, as is the Franklin Institute. Grants are made available to the Institute through the Department of the Interior for the upkeep and addition of exhibits to the Memorial. (Note: Free admission to Memorial Hall.)

The Benjamin Franklin Memorial and Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.



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## QUOTATIONS

1. "Love your Enemies, for they tell you your Faults."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1756
2. "He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1739
3. "There never was a good war or a bad peace."  
- *Letter to Sir Joseph Banks, president of the Royal Society of London, July 1783. Also cited in a letter to Quincy, Sr., American merchant, planter and politician, September 1783.*
4. "He that lies down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1733
5. "Better slip with foot than tongue."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1734
6. "Look before, or you'll find yourself behind."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1735
7. "Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1736
8. "He that would live in peace & at ease, Must not speak all he knows or judge all he sees."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1736
9. "Well done is better than well said."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1737
10. "A right Heart exceeds all."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1739
11. "What you seem to be, be really."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1744
12. "A true Friend is the best Possession."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1744
13. "No gains without pains."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1745
14. "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander Time; for that's the Stuff Life is made of."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1746

15. "Lost Time is never found again."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1747
16. "When you're good to others, you're best to yourself."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1748
17. "Pardoning the Bad, is injuring the Good."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1748
18. "Hide not your Talents, they for Use were made. What's a Sun-Dial in the shade!"  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1750
19. "Glass, China, and Reputation, are easily crack'd, and never well mended."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1750
20. "What more valuable than Gold? Diamonds. Then Diamonds? Virtue."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1751
21. "Haste makes Waste."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1753
22. "Search others for their virtues, thy self for thy vices."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1738
23. "It is better to take many Injuries than to give one."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1735
24. "Wish not so much to live long as to live well."  
- *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1738

Kindly visit the following Web Links for MORE!

<https://fi.edu/en/science-and-education/benjamin-franklin/famous-quotes>

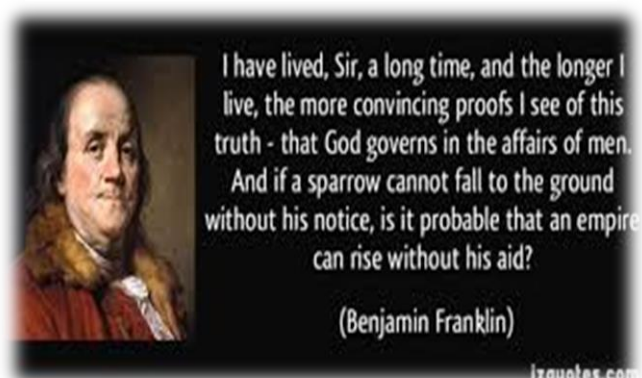
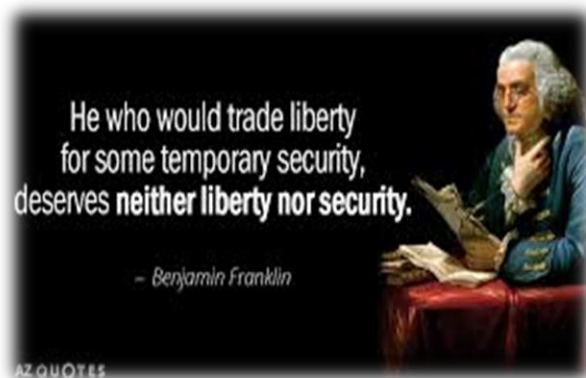
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/289513.Benjamin\\_Franklin](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/289513.Benjamin_Franklin)

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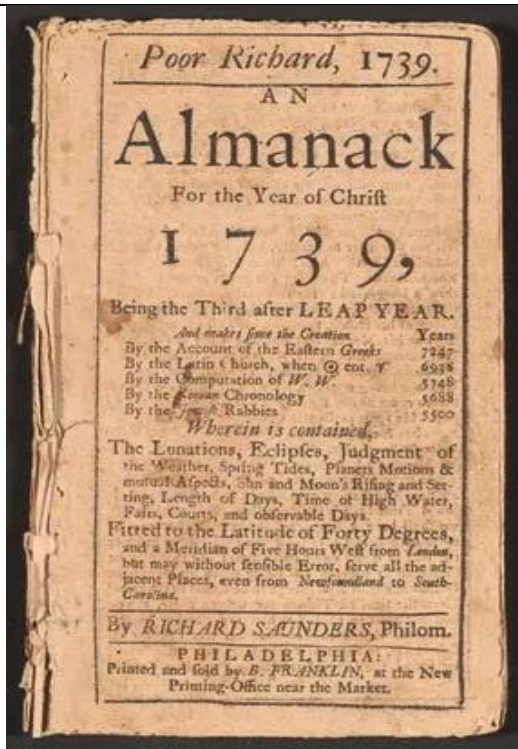
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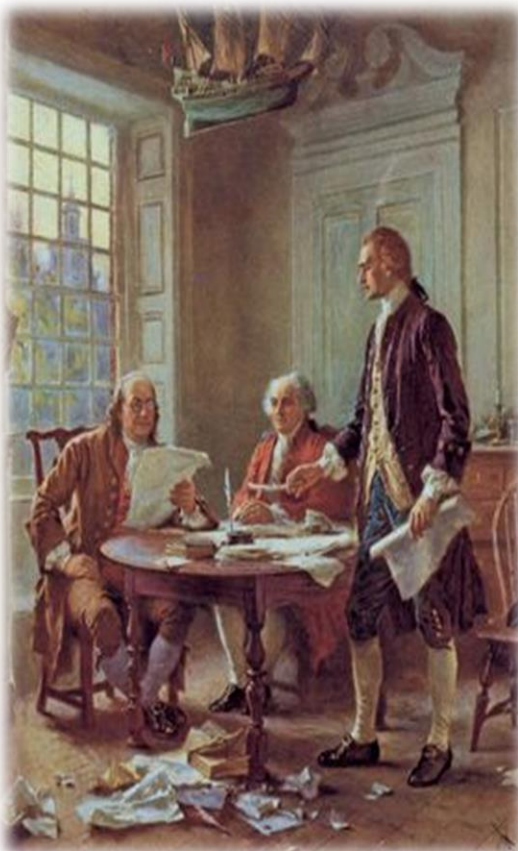




Poor Richard's almanac Title page for *Poor Richard's almanac* for 1739, written, printed, and sold by Benjamin Franklin.



Benjamin Franklin Benjamin Franklin's experiment proving the identity of lightning and electricity.



Declaration of Independence (From left to right) Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson discussing a draft of the Declaration of Independence, 1776



Benjamin Franklin and Louis XVI of France Benjamin Franklin, sent to seek help from France during the American Revolution, bows to King Louis XVI of France, March 20, 1778

# American Revolutionary War

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Revolutionary\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War)

## American Revolutionary War

Part of the [American Revolution](#)



*Clockwise from top left: Surrender of Lord Cornwallis after the siege of Yorktown, Battle of Trenton, The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Battle of Long Island, and the Battle of Guilford Court House*

<b>Date</b>	April 19, 1775 – September 3, 1783 (8 years, 4 months and 15 days) Ratification effective: May 12, 1784
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Eastern North America</a> , <a href="#">North Atlantic Ocean</a> , the <a href="#">Caribbean</a>
<b>Result</b>	American and allied victory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signing of the <a href="#">United States Declaration of Independence</a> in 1776.</li><li>• <a href="#">Great Britain</a> would not recognize American independence until signing the <a href="#">Treaty of Paris</a>.</li><li>• End of the <a href="#">First British Empire</a></li></ul>
<b>Territorial changes</b>	Great Britain cedes generally, all mainland territories east of the <a href="#">Mississippi River</a> , south of the <a href="#">Great Lakes</a> , and north of the <a href="#">Floridas</a> to the <a href="#">United States</a> .



- Great Britain  
cedes **Tobago** and **Senegal** to **France**.
- Great Britain cedes **Menorca**, **West Florida** and **East Florida** to **Spain**.

### Belligerents



#### Patriots:

-  **Thirteen Colonies** (1775)
-  **United Colonies** (1775–1776)
  -  **United States** (from 1776) [show List](#)
-  **France**
-  **Spain**
-  **Dutch Republic**

#### **Great Britain**

- **Loyalists**
- **Quebec**
- **Nova Scotia**
- **West Florida**
- **East Florida**




#### Combatants

-  **Br. Canadien**, Cong. rgts.
  -  **Br. Canadien mil.**, Fr. led
- [show](#)  
**Native Americans**







#### Combatants

- [show](#)
-  **German mercenaries/auxiliaries**
- [show](#)  
**Native Americans**

### Commanders and leaders

-  **Peyton Randolph** #
-  **John Hancock**
-  **Benjamin Franklin**

-   **George III**
-  **Lord North**
-  **Lord Shelburne**

-  **George Washington**
-  **Horatio Gates**
-  **Nathanael Greene**
-  **Henry Knox**
-  **John Sullivan**
-  **Benedict Arnold** 
-  **George Rogers Clark**
-  **Lafayette**
-  **Rochambeau**
-  **Bernardo de Gálvez**
- [full list...](#)

-  **Lord George Germain**
-  **Thomas Gage**
-  **William Howe**
-  **Henry Clinton**
-  **John Burgoyne**
-  **Charles Cornwallis**
-  **Benedict Arnold**
-  **Henry Hamilton**
-  **Banastre Tarleton**
- [full list...](#)

### Strength

- **United States:**
  - **Army** and **militia**:
    - 40,000 (average)
  - **Navy**:
    - 53 **frigates** and **sloops**
  - **Marines**: 2,131 (peak)
  - **State navies**:
    - 106 ships (total)
- **France:**
  - **Army**: 10,800
  - **Navy**: 2 fleets; escorts
- **Spain:**
- **Army**: 12,000
- **Navy**: 1 fleet; escorts
- **Native Americans**: Unknown

- **Great Britain:**
  - **Army**:
    - 48,000 (average), most in North America
  - **Navy**:
    - Task-force fleets & blockading squadrons
- **Loyalist troops:**
  - 25,000 (total)
- **German troops**
  - 29,875 (total)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Native Americans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 13,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Casualties and losses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>United States:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 178,800–223,800 total dead</li> <li>◦ 6,800 killed</li> <li>◦ 6,100 wounded</li> <li>◦ 17,000 dead from disease</li> <li>◦ 25,000–70,000 war dead</li> <li>◦ 130,000 dead from smallpox</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>France:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 2,112 killed– East Coast</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Spain:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 371 killed – W. Florida</li> <li>◦ 4,000 dead – prisoners</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Native Americans:</b> Unknown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Great Britain:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 8,500 killed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Germans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 7,774 total dead</li> <li>◦ 1,800 killed</li> <li>◦ 4,888 deserted</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Loyalists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 7,000 total dead</li> <li>◦ 1,700 killed</li> <li>◦ 5,300 dead from disease</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Native Americans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 500 total</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### More Useful Links:

- [1776 in the United States](#): events, births, deaths, and other years
- [Timeline of the American Revolution](#)

#### **Topics of the Revolution**

- [Committee of safety \(American Revolution\)](#)
- [Diplomacy in the American Revolutionary War](#)
- [Financial costs of the American Revolutionary War](#)
- [Flags of the American Revolution](#)
- [Naval operations in the American Revolutionary War](#)

#### **Social history of the Revolution**

- [Black Patriot](#)
- [Christianity in the United States#American Revolution](#)
- [The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution](#)
- [History of Poles in the United States#American Revolution](#)
- [List of clergy in the American Revolution](#)
- [List of Patriots \(American Revolution\)](#)
- [Quakers in the American Revolution](#)
- [Scotch-Irish Americans#American Revolution](#)

#### **Others in the American Revolution**

- [Nova Scotia in the American Revolution](#)
- [Watauga Association](#)

#### **Lists of Revolutionary military**

- [List of American Revolutionary War battles](#)
- [List of British Forces in the American Revolutionary War](#)
- [List of Continental Forces in the American Revolutionary War](#)
- [List of infantry weapons in the American Revolution](#)
- [List of United States militia units in the American Revolutionary War](#)

#### **Legacy and related**

- [American Revolution Statuary](#)

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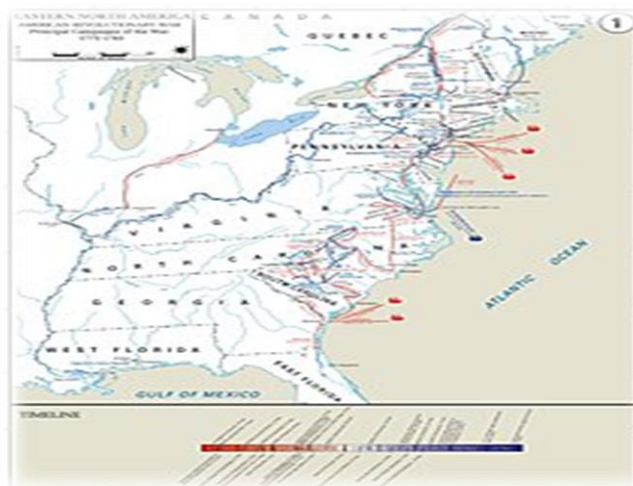
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Washington enters New York City at British evacuation, November 1783.

St. Paul's Chapel is on left.

The parade route in 1783 went from Bull's Head Tavern on Bowery, then continued down Chatham, Pearl, Wall, and ended at Cape's Tavern on Broadway.



A map of principal campaigns in the American Revolutionary War with British movements in red and American movements in blue; the timeline shows the British won most battles in the war's first half, but Americans won the most in the second.

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